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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/520,046

12/27/2005

Manfred Fuchs

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32300 7590 08/18/2009

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EXAMINER

ALLISON, ANDRAE S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/18/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/520,046	Applicant(s) FUCHS, MANFRED	
	Examiner ANDRAE S. ALLISON	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amendment filed 07/30/2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,11 and 13-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,11 and 13-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Remarks

1. The Office Action has been issued in response to amendment filed July 30, 2009. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 11, and 13-22 are pending. Applicant's arguments, see page 5-6, , with respect to the rejection(s) of claims 1, 11 and 17 under Braun in view of Toshimasa et al have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Braun and Fucks.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC section § 103

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 11 and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 11, and 13-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braun et al (NPL Document titled: "Confidence Interval of Single

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Dipole Locations Based on EEG Data”) in view of Fucks et al, (NPL Document titled: "Functional imaging of neuronal brain activities: overlay of distributed neuromagnetic current density images and morphological MR images ").

As to independent claim 1, Braun discloses a method (method for confidence interval of single dipole locations based on EEG Data, see title) comprising: modeling neural activity as a single equivalent current dipole (ECD) (see page 33, Methods section, [p] [005] - where the single dipole location is estimated); calculating a best fit dipole coordinate for each dipole (see page 34, method section, [p][007]); computing a confidence interval for each dipole coordinate (see page 34, method section, [p][008]); and displaying the confidence interval (see Fig 2, where the confidence level is displayed). However, Braun does not expressly disclose wherein the confidence interval is overlaid on an image obtained through the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Fucks discloses a method for functional imaging of neuronal brain activities (see title) wherein the confidence interval is overlaid on an image obtained through the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (see Fig. 3, where a neuromagnetic functional image is overlaid onto a 3D MRI). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modified the method for confidence interval of single dipole locations based on EEG Data of Braun with the method for functional imaging of neuronal brain activities of Fucks to accurately localize equivalent dipoles with residual functions that results in higher accuracy and a faster convergence in the equivalent dipole localization, thus correlating location, extent and direction of neural activities.

As to claim 2, Braun teaches the method wherein the step of computing a confidence interval includes computing an error ellipsoid (see page 38, discussion section, [p][004]).

As to claim 3, Braun teaches the method, wherein the step of computing an error ellipsoid includes computing a main axes of the error ellipsoid using a Singular Value Decomposition (see page 38, introduction section, [p][007], lines 14-16).

As to claim 4, Braun teaches the method, wherein the step of modeling includes assuming the geometric and conductive properties of cortical tissue (see page 37, discussion section, [p][001], lines 18-19).

As to claim 5, Braun teaches the method, wherein the step of computing a confidence interval includes the step determining field distributions for a best fit dipole coordinate and for a modified best fit dipole coordinate (see page 34, method section, [p][008]).

As to claim 6, Braun teaches the method, wherein the step of computing a confidence interval includes the step of computing the difference field distribution (see page 31, introduction section, [p][002], lines 8-10).

As to claim 7, Braun teaches the method, wherein the step of computing a confidence interval includes the step of performing a signal to noise ratio analysis (see abstract).

As to claim 8, Braun teaches the method and further comprising defining a Cartesian coordinate system (see Fig 1).

As to independent claim 17, all the limitations are discussed above except: wherein the confidence interval is displayed in its anatomical position. Braun does not teach wherein the confidence interval is displayed in its anatomical position. Toshimasa discloses a method for the accurate localizing of equivalent dipoles (see title) wherein the confidence interval is displayed in its anatomical position (see section1, page 118, subsection IV, part d). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modified the method for confidence interval of single dipole locations based on EEG Data of Braun with the method for the accurate localizing of equivalent dipoles Toshimasa to accurately localize equivalent dipoles with residual functions that results in higher accuracy and a faster convergence in the equivalent dipole localization (see abstract).

As to independent claim 11, this claim differs from claim 1 only in that claim 10 is apparatus whereas, claim 1 is method and the limitations a detector, a display and a

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processor are additively recited. Note the discussion above, Toshimasa teaches a system comprising: a detector (see page 1118, part d), a display (see page 115, section II, [p][005], lines 6-7), and a processor (see page 115, section II, [p][005], lines 6-7), further comprising an imaging source in communication with the processor (see page 1118, part d), wherein the three dimensional anatomical image is obtained through the use of the image device (see Fig 2).

As to claim 13, note the discussion above, Toshimasa teaches the, wherein the imaging source is an MRI unit (see page 1118, part d).

As to claim 14, note the discussion above, Toshimasa teaches the, wherein the imaging source is a CT scan (see page 1118, part d).

As to claim 15, Braun teach the apparatus, wherein the detector is an electroencephalogram (see page 31, introduction section, [p][001], line 1).

As to claim 16, Braun teach the apparatus, wherein the detector is a magnetoencephalogram see page 31, (introduction section, [p][001], lines 1-2).

As to claim 18, Braun teaches the method, wherein the step of computing a confidence interval includes computing a confidence ellipsoid axes from estimated noise level and different fields strengths (see page 34, method section, [p][008]);).

As to claim 19, note the discussion above, Toshimasa teaches the method, wherein the step of displaying includes the step of receiving a digital image (see page 1118, part d).

As to claim 20, Braun teaches the method, wherein the step of computing a confidence interval includes the step of computing a confidence volume (see abstract).

As to claim 21, Braun teach the apparatus, wherein the detector comprises electroencephalogram sensors (introduction section, [p][001], lines 1-2).

As to claim 22, Braun teach the apparatus, wherein the detector comprises electroencephalogram sensors (introduction section, [p][001], lines 1-2).

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDRAE S. ALLISON whose telephone number is (571)270-1052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikkram Bali can be reached on (571) 272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yubin Hung/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/A. S. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2624
August 12, 2009